

REMARKS

I. General

Claims 1-32 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 2-4, 6-11 and 13-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 32 is allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability for claims 2-4, 6-11 and 13-32. A

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice in order to expedite the issuance of the allowable claims. As a result of this amendment, claims 2-32 will remain pending in the current application. Applicant hereby traverses the outstanding objections and rejections, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks and amendments contained herein.

II. Amendments to the Claims

Although not conceding the merits of the rejections, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice in order to expedite the issuance of the allowable claims. Applicant reserves the right to resubmit any claims canceled herein, and expressly states that the subject matter thereof has not been dedicated to the public.

Claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 24, 25, 28 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner, to include all the limitations of base claim 1. Applicant asserts that claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 24, 25, 28 and 30 are allowable for, at least, the reasons set forth in the current Office Action.

Claims 5 and 12 are amended to reflect dependence from claim 24. Applicant asserts that claims 5 and 12 are allowable for, at least, the reasons set forth in the current Office Action with respect to claim 24.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,952,454 to Jalali (“Jalali”). These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation

of claim 1 and claims 5 and 12 reciting subject matter that the Examiner considers to be patentable over the art of record.

IV. Conclusion

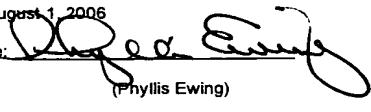
In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The required fee for this Amendment After Final is shown on the transmittal sheet. If any additional fee is due, or at any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 68144-P017US-10502093 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 1, 2006

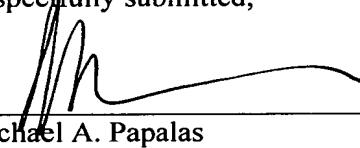
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 568259432 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: August 1, 2006

Signature: 

(Phyllis Ewing)

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael A. Papalas
Registration No.: 40,381
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2800
Dallas, Texas 75201-2784
(214) 855-8186
(214) 855-8200 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant